NPS Form 10-900 OMB No. 1024-0018 (Rev. 10-90)

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property
historic name <u>Birdwood</u>
other names/site number <u>VDHR # 002-0003</u>
2. Location
street & number _500 Birdwood Drive (Rt. 250 West) not for publication city or town Charlottesville vicinity _X_ state Virginia _ code _VA _ county _Albemarle _ code _003 _ zip code _22903-4613_
3. State/Federal Agency Certification
As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, as amended, I hereby certify that this _X nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _X meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide _X_ locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of certifying official Date
State or Federal agency and bureau
In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)
Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau	
4. National Park Service Certification	
I, hereby certify that this property is:	
See continuation sheet determined eligible for the National Register See continuation sheet.	
Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
5. Classification	
Ownership of Property (Check as many box private public-localX_ public-State public-Federal Category of Property (Check only one box)	
X building(s) district site structure object	
Number of Resources within Property	
Number of contributing resources previousl Register <u>0</u>	y listed in the National
Name of related multiple property listing (E	Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

6. Function or Use	
Historic Functions (Enter catego	
Cat: DOMESTIC	Sub: single dwelling
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	<u>secondary structure</u> (ice house)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure (dependency)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure (dependency)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure (garage)
DOMESTIC	<u>secondary structure</u> (water tower)
DOMESTIC	secondary structure (quarters)
<u>DOMESTIC</u>	secondary structure (cottage)
Current Functions (Enter categoricat: VACANT/NOT IN VACANT/NOT IN U	USE Sub:
VACANT/NOT IN U	
DOMESTIC	
DOMESTIC DOMESTIC	single dwelling
See Continuation Sheet	single dwelling
See Continuation Sheet	
7. Description	
Architectural Classification (Ent <u>EARLY REPUBLIC (Jeffe</u> <u>CLASSICAL REVIVAL (N</u>	ersonian Classicism)
Materials (Enter categories from	instructions)
foundation <u>BRICK</u>	insuuchons)
	(20)
roof STONE (Slat	nich Dond)
walls BRICK (Flen	<u>lisii bonq)</u>
other	
Narrative Description (Describe sheets.)	the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation
8. Statement of Significance	
Applicable National Register Cr. National Register listing)	iteria (Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property f

A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
\underline{X} C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.
Criteria Considerations (Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)
A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
B removed from its original location.
C a birthplace or a grave.
D a cemetery.
E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
F a commemorative property.
G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.
Areas of Significance (Enter categories from instructions)
ARCHITECTURE
Period of Significance 1819-1953
Significant Dates <u>1819</u> <u>1865</u> <u>1909</u>
Significant Person (Complete if Criterion B is marked above)
Cultural Affiliation
Architect/Builder <u>UNKNOWN</u>

Narrative Statement of Significance (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation

sheets.)	
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9. Major Bibli	ographical References			
(Cite the books	s, articles, and other sources used in	preparing 1	this form on one or more continuation sheet	ts.)
requested. previously previously designated X recorded b	mentation on file (NPS) y determination of individual listing listed in the National Register determined eligible by the National a National Historic Landmark by Historic American Buildings Sur y Historic American Engineering R	ıl Register rvey# <u>HAB</u>		
	ency ernment	ile_# 002-00	<u>003</u>	
10. Geographi	cal Data			====
Acreage of Pro	perty <u>11.743</u> _acres			
Zone 1 17 2 17	tes (Place additional UTM reference Easting Northing Zone Easting N 716450 4214175 3 17 716220 4 716413 4214085 4 17 716380 4 See continuation sheet .	Northing 213785	cinuation sheet)	
Verbal Bounda	ary Description (Describe the bound	laries of the	property on a continuation sheet.)	
Boundary Justi	fication (Explain why the boundari	es were sele	ected on a continuation sheet.)	
11. Form Prep	pared By			
name/title	Richard Sidebottom, Graduate S	tudent_		
organization	University of Virginia	date	March 2003	
street & numbe	er 28 East Range	teleni	hone (434) 243-2318	

city or town	<u>Charlottesville</u>	state_ <u>VA</u> _ zip code	22903
Additional Docum	nentation		
Submit the follow	ing items with the complete	ed form:	
Continuation Shee	ets		
		dicating the property's location. operties having large acreage	or numerous resources.
Photographs Representative	black and white photograp	shs of the property.	
Additional items (Check with the SHPO or F	PO for any additional items)	
Property Owner			
•	m at the request of the SHF University of Virginia		
street & number_	PO Box 400726	telephone	
city or town	Charlottesville	state <u>VA</u> zip code <u>22</u>	<u>2904-4726</u>
Panarwark Paduat	tion A at Statement: This is	oformation is being callested for	condigations to the National

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section <u>6</u>	Page 1	Birdwood Albemarle County, VA	
Historic Function	ns		
Cat: _	<u>DOMESTIC</u>	Sub: <u>secondary structure</u> (garage)	
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>animal facility</u> (stable)	
	<u>AGRICULTURE</u>	<u>storage</u> (building with silo)	
	LANDSCAPE	garden with statuary	
Current Function	18		
Cat: _	VACANT/NOT IN USE	Sub:	
	VACANT/NOT IN USE		
	VACANT/NOT IN USE		
	LANDSCAPE	garden remains with statuary	

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section	7	Page 2	Birdwood
			Albemarle County, VA

Summary Description:

Located in the foothills west of Charlottesville on nearly twelve acres of land, Birdwood is a two-story brick plantation house built between 1819 and 1830 for William Garth. It bears many similarities to other Jeffersonian inspired houses in the local area and may have been constructed by builders who at the same time were constructing the University of Virginia. The original portion of the house is a cubic brick mass laid in Flemish bond and dominated by a monumental entrance portico supported by four Doric columns. The doorways of the main facade on the first and second levels are both single doors topped by elliptical transoms and latticed sidelights. The symmetrical facades and overall proportions are carried throughout the exterior walls by window and door openings, incised brick panels and four interior end chimneys. The roof is presently covered with a slate roof but portions of the original metal-covered hipped roof survive under later additions. The original plan is a square, double-pile, central-passage design with four rooms on each floor. The building has a significant addition from the Colonial Revival period also of Flemish bond that elongated the building and created a perpendicular secondary axis in the resulting floor plan. The majority of interior woodwork and fireplaces also date to the Colonial Revival period although some details date from the first period of building. Birdwood possesses a collection of dependencies as well as agricultural outbuildings and structures from both the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, as well as the remains of a late-nineteenth/early-twentieth-century garden.

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NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Detailed Description:

Exterior

The Birdwood mansion consists today of two main blocks, an 1819 Jeffersonian house and an equally massive Colonial Revival addition to the South. The original five-bay, three-story section still dominates the image of the house with an entry portico on the north façade supported by four monumental Doric columns. A semicircular window occupies the pediment of the portico and the Doric entablature extends around the entire building. A tall flight of stone steps leads to the main floor, which rests on a high basement. Above the front door is a small balcony adorned with a wooden, Chinese Chippendale railing. It is suspended by iron rods. An elliptical-arched door with sidelights serves as the front entrance and a second door of identical form serves the balcony. The first-floor doorway is a product of the late nineteenth or early twentieth century, while the second-floor opening is original. The hip roof on the original block is accentuated by four interior end chimneys, while the gable roof of the addition is pierced by a single central chimney. The roof of the entire mansion is now covered with slate. Brickwork on the entire house is laid in Flemish bond with mortar joints on the original portions of the building of a cleaner quality than that of the addition. The walls feature double-struck mortar joints and appear to have been painted red and penciled, as were the immediate dependencies. Between the two stories and at some areas where no windows exist, rectangular incised brick panels help to continue the symmetry of the exterior.

The east and west sides of the mansion are lined with one-story porches on brick piers that feature Tuscan columns and railings of turned balusters. The east porch runs along a portion of the original house block, while the west porch runs the entire length of the original block and extends to serve the west door of the perpendicular cross passage. The east door of the passage is reached by stone steps. Both exterior doors of the east-west passage are identical to the front door with elliptical transoms, sidelights and small Corinthian columns framing the door opening. On top of the west porch and below the cornice line sits a distinctive white-stuccoed projection with curved corners and a western-facing window. Stone steps on the south side of the building lead into a large sun porch that spans the entire width of the house. The only doorway to the basement is below the east stair landing.

Throughout the upper floors of the mansion, the rooms have windows with six-over-six sash surrounded by molded frames, topped with lintels fitted with louvered shutters. Windows in the basement have three-over-three sash with molded wooden frames. Those in the original section of the house have exterior shutters as well as bars for security. Two circular windows

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Description (cont.)

help to light a large room on the first floor of the addition. They are placed just south of the doorways leading to the cross passage on the east and west sides of the house.

The site contains four original nineteenth-century dependencies that frame the immediate campus of the mansion and one nearby two-room stone plantation quarters for either slaves or overseer. Two other stone supporting structures south of the house may date from the original building period although they have been modified. A stable and garage southwest of the house and a distinctive lighthouse-shaped water tower to the east were added in the early twentieth-century. The grounds also contain traces of the late nineteenth or early twentieth-century ornamental gardens that include sculpture and an elaborate iron and fieldstone gate at the main entry road from Route 250. There are two noncontributing brick residences south and southeast of the main house.

Interior

Birdwood was originally a double-pile plan with a central passage dividing the four rooms on each floor. Little remains of the original treatment on the main floor. In the early twentieth century, two interior partitions were removed to convert the four original rooms on the first floor into two large entertaining areas, one on each side of the stair hall. The west room holds two identical fireplaces with molded surrounds and brick jack arches marking the fireboxes. The mantels are supported by Ionic pilasters and contain a frieze with three urns and garlands. Sections of the wall have small applied moldings to create frames that look like paneling while a detailed cornice of dentils topped by egg-and-dart molding and beading above encircles the room. Radiators have been installed throughout the house under some of the windows. The east room has been fully covered with wooden paneling that includes engaged Doric pilasters and pediments with dentils topping both doorways leading into the passage. Though the cornice is the same as in the west room, the ceiling has a different treatment of plaster paneling and medallions adorning it. Bookcases line the walls on the west side of the room and around the now-covered southeast fireplace. The cases have glass doors with lattice shaped mullions and open in pairs facing each other. A door on the east side of the room leads to the east porch of the house. Modern carpeting now covers the plank floors in this room alone. The entrance passage has the same cornice and wall treatment as the west room but includes paneling below the chair rail. An arched opening supported by pairs of fluted Doric columns on pedestals separates the entry area from the stair and hall to the addition.

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Description (cont.)

The passage leads by the stair, through an arched opening and into a perpendicular passage in the addition. The same type of cornice runs throughout the addition but is now paired with a high, marbleized chair rail with paneling below. The marbling and height of the rail match the mantel of a fireplace positioned in the middle of the south passage wall. An arched opening with sliding pocket doors on the south wall mirrors the one to the front passage of the north wall, and leads into a large entertaining room on the south side of the house. This large south room contains a fireplace connected to that of the cross passage and allows access to the large sun porch visible from the exterior. A doorway on the east wall of the large south room leads into the early twentieth-century kitchen complete with back stair and electric dumbwaiter.

Cracking on the plaster in the southeast corner of the entrance passage and replaced floorboards on the second floor show that the now-straight main stair originally turned on a landing to reach the second floor. The second-floor passage is adorned with a simple cornice and chair rail. Unlike the door surrounds and flooring on the main floor from the Colonial Revival period, the doors and floors of the second story date from the original Jeffersonian period. The most remarkable survival is the second-story exterior doorway at the north end of the passage that leads to the suspended balcony. The moldings and glass for the doorway are original. Some of the panes contain the names of former residents scratched on them. The four rooms on the second floor have been reworked in many places to add early twentieth-century restrooms including one that occupies the projection over the west porch visible on the exterior. Unlike the first floor, the passage on the second floor has been extended around the stair to the addition that essentially mimics the four-room plan of the original section.

The main stair continues to the attic level where three closet areas have been framed, though no area of the attic is finished. The roof framing shows signs of recent repair but also has much of the original timber still in place. A portion of the original standing-seam metal roof is visible on what was the south roof of the original house, now preserved under the Colonial Revival addition.

The basement carries the same four-room plan as the floors above with storage spaces slightly modifying the original room sizes. Fireplaces extend to the basement floor in the two north rooms and may have done so throughout the original house block. A portion of the brickwork and basement window frames of the original house are well preserved in the addition rooms of the basement level.

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Section 8 Page 6

Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Summary Statement of Significance:

Birdwood is a unique dwelling built between 1819 and 1830 as the plantation home of William Garth, one of the most successful planters of antebellum Albemarle County, Virginia. The house exhibits many of the characteristics common to buildings at the University of Virginia and other early nineteenth-century houses in the area known to have been built by Thomas Jefferson's builders. The immediate grounds surrounding the mansion contain four dependencies that are unusual compared to similar Jeffersonian properties in the county, including a brick smokehouse, and an office with a basement icehouse. The house is also significant for its Colonial Revival additions undertaken by Charles Edgar and Hollis Rinehart, both prominent citizens of Charlottesville. This work included the extension of the house, a distinctive water tower designed in the form of a lighthouse and ornamental gardens.

Justification of Criteria: Birdwood is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places at the local level under Criterion C for Architecture. The main house bears many similarities to houses in the area that were inspired by the work of Thomas Jefferson and it may have been constructed by builders who were working under Jefferson at the University of Virginia during the same time period.

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Historical Narrative:

The present Birdwood property sits on land that was part of an original crown land grant to David Lewis in 1759. The property was first named Birdwood by Hore Browse Trist, an associate of Thomas Jefferson, after a county vicar in England, Reverend John Birdwood.1 Trist owned the property for ten years before selling his six hundred acres in 1810. In 1817, William Garth purchased the property from his brother Jessie Winston Garth and had the extant brick dwelling built there sometime before 1830. The Garth family was already prominent in local affairs including Thomas Garth, father of Jessie and William, who was a leader in Albemarle County's involvement with the movement for independence. At least two roads still named for the family traverse parts of central and western Albemarle County once owned by the Garths.

Under the ownership of William Garth, Birdwood became one of the most successful farming operations in Albemarle County. As a member of the local farming community, William Garth pursued an interest in scientific advances in agriculture that started with his father's generation and included John Hartwell Cocke, Thomas Jefferson, William Meriwether and William Cabell. Garth hosted meetings of the Hole and Corner Club No. 1, a group of local plantation owners, at Birdwood and experimented in increasing crop returns. By the 1850 census Garth had amassed nearly \$50,000 in assets from his 1,000 acres of land. The core of his holdings at Birdwood employed most of his fifty-two slaves in producing wheat, corn and tobacco. The prosperity of the Garth family continued until the Civil War at which point their reliance on the use of slave labor greatly reduced profits. Family accounts and local tradition claim that Northern troops occupied the house for three days during the Civil War, plundering the mansion at Birdwood, ruining crops in the fields and freeing numerous slaves. The account also states that General George Armstrong Custer later arrived at the property, before his entrance into Charlottesville in 1865, to apologize for the treatment of the family at the hands of the army. 2

¹ Wells, Jane Flaherty. "Thomas Jefferson's Neighbors," p. 3.

² Moore, John Hammond. <u>Albemarle: Jefferson's County, 1727-1976</u>. p. 167
<u>Account book of William Garth, 1844-1856</u>. Unpublished manuscript (MSS 11081), Special Collections Library, University of Virginia. Bankhead, Ada Pyne. Sheridan's Raid at Birdwood.

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Statement of Significance (cont.)

As the seat of the Garth family for about sixty years, Birdwood saw much wear and tear from the eleven Garth children, including graffiti scratched on one of the window panes that reads "Gabe Garth, June 22nd, 1844." Following the death of William Garth in 1860, the property was to be divided evenly by his heirs. Instead a long court suit over the property was initiated and was finally settled when the property and house were put up for auction. A broadside advertising the sale in 1875 is in the collections of the University of Virginia.

The house was subsequently owned by Samuel and Annie Buck and William C. Chamberlain before being sold to Charles Edgar in 1903. According to one source Edgar added land to the Birdwood property and built the sizable addition to the mansion as the south part of the dwelling. After owning the property just six years, Edgar sold the house and 535 acres to Hollis Rinehart. Rinehart, whose family became wealthy from exploits in the railroad business, became a successful businessman as a partner in Rinehart and Dennis Construction and as the creator of the Charlottesville National Bank and Trust Company. Additionally, Rinehart served as a member of the University of Virginia's Board of Visitors and created an eight-story office building for his bank in downtown Charlottesville.3 Rinehart enclosed the south porch of Birdwood, took out the walls between rooms on the first floor to create two large rooms and paneled the eastern one. On the grounds, he built the distinctive water tower just east of the mansion in the form of a lighthouse and probably added the ornamental gardens and statuary south of the tower.4

In 1921, Rinehart sold the property to Henry L. Fonda who raised show horses of national acclaim and Hereford cattle on the property. In 1936, Fonda sold the property to James DeWitt Wilde who in turn sold the property to Cornelius W. Middleton in 1940. One source mentions that Middleton carried out "extensive improvements" to the house and property. It is at this time that the roof cupola, still visible in sketches from a 1935 book, was removed.5 Middleton

³ This building at the corner of Main Street and Second Street NW is currently occupied by Wachovia Bank.

⁴ Chamberlain, Bernard P. History of Birdwood.

Moore, Albemarle. p. 364-365.

[&]quot;Birdwood." Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Survey Form, VDHR File # 02-3.

⁵ Rawlings, Mary. Ante-bellum Albemarle. p. 84.

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Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Statement of Significance (cont.)

continued to use the acreage of the property to raise Hereford cattle before selling the property in parcels to the University of Virginia, first in 1967 and then in 1974. The approximately twelve-acre site of the house today has been separated from the original farmland, which has been divided into numerous properties. The improvements on the land include the university's Birdwood golf course that surrounds the mansion site. For a short time the mansion served as a conference center for the university but ceased to function as such about ten years ago. The mansion is not currently in use but has been considered as a possible site for a number of university related academic centers.6

For two centuries, Birdwood has functioned as an important property for the Charlottesville and Albemarle area. The house is a significant contribution to the community as an example of Early Republican architecture reflecting Jeffersonian Classicism, as the home of numerous important individuals within the community, and as an important agricultural center for crops during the nineteenth century and livestock during the twentieth century.

⁶ Chamberlain, History of Birdwood.

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Section <u>9,10</u> Page 10

Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

Major Bibliographical References:

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Chamberlain, Bernard. "History of Birdwood." Unpublished study produced after 1974.

Kim, Andrew Byung Kyu and Lorenzo Mattii. "Water Tower at Birdwood Pavilion." Unpublished study prepared under the direction of K. Edward Lay, School of Architecture, University of Virginia. Charlottesville: 1993. HABS VA-1343

Lay, K. Edward. *The Architecture of Jefferson Country*. Charlottesville: University Press of Virginia, 2000.

Moore, John Hammond. *Albemarle: Jefferson's County, 1727-1976.* Charlottesville: Albemarle County Historical Society, 1976.

Nadel, Andrea. "Birdwood Ice House." Unpublished study prepared under the direction of K. Edward Lay, School of Architecture, University of Virginia. Charlottesville: 1982. HABS VA-1077

Rawlings, Mary. Ante-Bellum Albemarle. Charlottesville: People's National Bank, 1935.

Wells, Jane Flaherty. "Thomas Jefferson's Neighbors: Hore Browse Trist of 'Birdwood' and Dr. William Bache of 'Franklin." *The Magazine of Albemarle County History*. Vol. 47, 1989.

Woods, Edgar. Albemarle County in Virginia. Bridgewater: The Green Bookman, 1932.

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Section <u>10</u> Page <u>11</u>

Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

UTM References, cont'd

5)	Zone 17	Easting 716520	Northing 4213700
6)	17	716570	4213830
7)	17	716480	4213840
8)	17	716520	4213950
9)	17	716450	4214080
10)	17	716485	4214165

Verbal Boundary Description

The property being nominated is identified as parcel number 06000-00-00-028C0 on the tax parcel maps for Albemarle County, Virginia.

Boundary Justification

The nomination includes all of the buildings historically associated with Birdwood and currently contained on Albemarle County tax parcel number 06000-00-00-028C0.

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Section Photo List Page 12

Birdwood Albemarle County, VA

The following items are common to all photographs:

NAME OF PROPERTY: Birdwood VDHR # 002-0003

LOCATION: Charlottesville vicinity, Albemarle County, Virginia

NAME OF PHOTOGRAPHER: Richard Sidebottom

DATE: March 2003

LOCATION OF NEGATIVES: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond

Neg. # 20450

1 of 12: Mansion from Northwest

2 of 12: Southeast corner of Mansion showing large Sun Porch

- 3 of 12: East side of the Mansion looking North past Gardens and Statuary to Water Tower, Southeast Dependency (garage) and Northeast Dependency (office and icehouse)
- 4 of 12: Southwest Dependency (smokehouse) with Northwest Dependency (kitchen) in background
- 5 of 12: Quarters South and East of Mansion area, looking at Southeast corner of building
- 6 of 12: Cottage South and West of Mansion area, looking at Northeast corner of building
- 7 of 12: Farm Outbuilding with Silo South and West of Mansion area, looking at Northwest corner of building
- 8 of 12: Stable South and West of Mansion area, looking at Southeast corner of building
- 9 of 12: Main passage and stair on first floor, looking South
- 10 of 12: Northwest room on first floor, looking South
- 11 of 12: Cross passage in south addition, looking West
- 12 of 12: Original molding detail from second-story passage door leading to Northeast room

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Section Sketch Map Page 13 Birdwood Albemarle County, VA
